

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a meeting on Monday, June 25, 2012 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY at 7:00pm.

Present:	Mervin Livsey	----	Supervisor
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	James Stradley	----	Council Member
	June Gunza	----	Council Member
	Holly Gokey	----	Council Member
	Justin Rider	----	Counsel
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk

Supervisor Livsey opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Supervisor Livsey asked for a moment of silence for Carl "Pete" Crill, a life-long member of the community and 57 year member of the Highland Falls Fire Dept., who passed away last week.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MINUTES

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to approve the minutes from the June 11 Town Board meeting with a minor amendment.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Livsey received information about a program that allows low income residents to maintain telephone service and save money on the bill. The Supervisor provided a website for anyone that might want more information.

Supervisor Livsey received an e-mail asking for volunteers to help the Green Team with the Hike/Bike Sundays. The Supervisor said that anyone wanting more information could contact Ted Nugent or Olga Andersen.

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Council Member Edsall said that volunteers are not easy to get. Mr. Edsall also said that DOT might require the Town to sign a letter stating there are no objections to closing the road.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to authorize Supervisor Livsey to prepare and sign a letter for DOT that states the Town of Highlands has no objection to the closing of the road for this purpose.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays

Supervisor Livsey said that the cost of the Colonial High Tea that was mentioned at the last meeting is a \$3 donation and they are asking that you make reservations and pay in advance.

FINANCIAL REPORTS, REQUESTS & RESOLUTIONS

Water District #2 Transfer of Funds:

Supervisor Livsey said that the Town Engineer is going to review the Water District #2 project proposals and money needs to be transferred to cover this expense.

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to transfer \$1,000 from Water District #2 Bond Counsel to Water District #2 Other Expenses.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays

Approval of Expenditures:

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to approve the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$96,500.97.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays

BOARD REPORTS

Council Member Edsall:

Sewer Plant: He and the Supervisor spoke about the housekeeping at the Sewer Plant.

Zoning: Working on the changes related to the Master Plan.

The Unsafe Buildings Code for the Village is more comprehensive than the Town's and he almost like to include the entire Village code in the Town code.

The Board received a letter from the Planning Board regarding signage. Council Member Edsall sent the Board members an e-mail with a presentation he put together and he highlighted what he recommends. Mr. Edsall said that if the Board has not changes, he will have the Chairman poll the Planning Board.

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Water Easement: This is moving slowly. There is a problem with 1 entity and the Town might have to do Eminent Domain.

Council Member Edsall reported that it was a pleasure to attend the O'Neill graduation.

Council Member Stradley:

Highway: Working on surface treatments for some roads in the Town.

Dial-A-Bus: Council Member Stradley encouraged food shopping locally, even though the bus can now go to Monroe.

Council Member Gunza:

Police: There is 1 resignation and 1 new hire.

Ambulance: The Ambulance Corps has been very busy.

Council Member Gunza referenced a letter from Chief Quinn about the possibility of having a Memorial Day Parade. She and Chief Quinn have both spoken to the Village and they are on Board and the Chief is willing to chair a committee for this.

Chief Quinn believes that this would be great for the community.

Council Member Gunza said it is very fitting to honor the military and she would like the Board to approve going forward with this.

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to approve going ahead with the preparations to have a Memorial Day Parade.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays**

Council Member Gokey:

Building Dept.: The Building Department has been very busy.

Assessor: They are working on the final assessment roll, which must be filed by July 1.

IT: Servers are in place and they will be down this week to upgrade/fix a couple of computers.

Supervisor Livsey said he looked at the Village's website and asked Council Member Gokey when our website would be like that.

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Council Member Gokey said she is going to sit down with them soon and put everything on the website.

Council Member Gokey reported that she, Ms. Blauvelt and Ms. Patterson are working on getting RFP's for health and liability insurance.

Council Member Gokey said that she and Ms. Blauvelt are working on the Violence in the Workplace Policy. Ms. Gokey said they have a model policy from another municipal that they are adapting to the Town.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Livsey reported that, while the Town is not receiving as much money from FEMA as the Village, we will be recouping some of the debt. The Supervisor reviewed what the Town will be receiving.

Council Member Gokey said a grant for recycling bins was applied for and it should be coming at some point.

Supervisor Livsey said he had a lengthy meeting with the Water Committee. The Supervisor said there was a delay in the Comptroller's office that will be fixed soon. The Supervisor further reported that the EFC is not totally satisfied with the contract with the Village and some word changes need to be made.

Mr. Rider said that the changes should go in next week and he doesn't believe that the Board will have any problems with those changes.

Supervisor Livsey met with Judge Fatsis to discuss things that he would like to see done.

Supervisor Livsey said that the Garrison Pond fire access belongs to the Town, but will not be maintained by the Town.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Rider said he would wait to discuss things as they come up on the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Emergency Services Building "Barrier":

Supervisor Livsey would like to clear this issue up tonight.

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Council Member Gokey said that \$4,000 was put in the budget for this.

Supervisor Livsey said that 2 landscapers took a look at the property and gave estimates of \$9,000 to remediate the problem. The Supervisor said that the Board has to decide whether or not to spend that money. The Supervisor asked Ms. Lavelle to explain what she hopes to get out of this.

Ms. Lavelle said she would like more privacy and to have noise/light reduced.

Council Member Edsall would like to get more quotes.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to approve spending up to \$9,502.02 on landscaping improvements at the Emergency Services Building at the discretion of the Supervisor and Highway Superintendent.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays**

Bobbie Fallon asked the Board if they had thought about a fence. Ms. Fallon also said she would like to see a guarantee on the trees.

Council Member Gokey said that would be in the contract.

Supervisor Livsey said he will have Mr. Squicciarini look into the project.

Court Attendant:

Supervisor Livsey said he believes that a temporary solution has been found.

Mr. Rider said that the Board received a memo with the options for long term security for the court. Mr. Rider stated that there is a liability concern with the Court Attendant carrying certain types of weapons.

Supervisor Livsey said that Mr. Zint has not provided his qualifications.

Judge Fatsis said he has the qualifications and he believes he has met the requirements for Special Police.

Mr. Rider said the Board can make a motion subject to him meeting all the qualifications.

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After a lengthy discussion the following motion was made:

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to hire Dan Zint as a Special Police Officer to serve as a Court Attendant for the Town of Highlands Court until January 31, 2013, subject to him meeting all the legal requirements of the position.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-ayes (Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays
1-abstain (Livsey)

Hemlock Street:

Mr. Rider said the papers have been drafted and things are moving along. Mr. Rider would like the Board to give the owner another notice and have him come before the Board on July 9.

Supervisor Livsey said he would like Mr. Rider and Council Member Edsall to come up with a code the Town can use.

Mr. Rider said he would prepare a Local Law to amend the Town code.

Council Member Edsall will call Mr. Hager to discuss this.

Supervisor Livsey will put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Safe Home Project:

Council Member Edsall said that the Mayor and Chamber have the documents that previous Council Member Tautel had.

Supervisor Livsey asked Council Member Gokey to look into this.

Memorial Park:

Supervisor Livsey said he received a proposal for \$27,000 and is waiting on more.

Basement Remediation:

Supervisor Livsey said this had already been discussed enough.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Highway Time Clock:

Council Member Stradley asked to table this until he can talk to Mr. Squicciarini.

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Police Business:

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to approve the resignation of PO Jose Mercurio effective June 29, 2012.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-ayes (Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays
1-abstain (Livsey)

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to hire Sean Baird as a part-time Police Officer at the minimum pay and maximum probationary period.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-ayes (Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays
1-abstain (Livsey)

Supervisor Livsey stated that this officer is replacing the officer that resigned.

Supervisor Livsey welcomed Kathy Hammill from the Hudson Highlands Land Trust.

Supervisor Livsey received a call from the owners of the Fort Montgomery Marina asking if the Town would be interested in the land.

Mr. Rider said this could be good for the Town and suggested that the Town entertain a meeting with them about the property.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mervin R. Livsey, Jr. asked if the Board had anything in writing stating that the Library would be charging the Town \$1 to lease their basement.

Mr. Rider said he doesn't recall any paper, just discussions.

Mr. Grant asked who owned the fire access property at Garrison's Pond.

Supervisor Livsey said the Town owned it, but were not going to take care of it.

Council Member Stradley said he would look into it.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to go into executive session to discuss a police matter. Board went into executive session at 8:30pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays**

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to close the executive session. Executive session closed at 8:49pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays**

ADJOURN

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays**

Attest,